

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Michael Dillon, President
Braidwood FPD*

I want to thank all the volunteers who assisted at the State Fair, Fire Service Exhibit on IAFPD day. The weather was very nice, the exhibits were well attended and kept everyone busy.

As we reach the end of 2017, I want to thank all who assisted in our 75th Anniversary Celebration. Throughout 2017 we reflected on the creation and history of the Association. Now as we move to 2018 we look to the future and to continue the vision of an association to assist fire protection districts, in supporting better governance by fire protection district officials through education, resources, communication and legislation.

Our first start to the future is the purchase of our own office building. Over the previous years, we have been housed at several locations (11 different locations if anyone is counting). The board members decided several years ago that we needed a permanent home to do Association business. After many meetings with realtors and commercial property owners, city tours by Brett Kunkel with building committee reviews and meetings headed by Stan Seevers we were able to

obtain the new office building at 1201 S. Sixth Street in Springfield. Everyone I have talked to feel this is a step we needed to do to continue to provide the support, dedication and commitment needed in the fire service today and into the future.

An update on our strategic plan items: Social Media is moving along with Facebook contacts and activities.

Our new website is an ongoing project with updates and new information

The implementation of webinars is underway as I write this.

Member contact information is always a work in progress as Trustees retire, move to other positions with pension boards or commissions our database and contacts need to be updated. This is where I ask all of you to help us so that information can get to all of you to better disseminate urgent information.

If you are looking for the legislative report, we published this report in the Summer issue and IAFPD has mailed a revised copy with your membership renewal. The 2018 training sessions and the conference dates are also contained in the renewal, but also published in this

issue of *The Fire Call*.

Please be sure to take a moment and review the membership update materials. Along with the above items, this update is an overview of the activities that we are involved in throughout the year.

Watch the IAFPD website for updates on current fire service action, legislation and upcoming events. If you need more information on ways your district can work with the IAFPD or questions on how the IAFPD can assist your district, the Board of Directors, Staff and I are interested in hearing from you.

As always, the IAFPD Directors (and staff) will attend training sessions, open houses, dedications and other activities when invited by our members. If your fire district would like a Director or Area Representative to meet with them or attend any of your events please reach out to us via the Office Staff and arrangements will be made. ■

Michael Dillon, Braidwood FPD
IAFPD, President



Congratulations Gary Mueller of the **Chatham Fire Protection District** as the newest IAFPD Area Representative serving the central Illinois region. Gary was appointed in June and sworn into his position at the August Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Mueller has served Chatham FPD Board of Trustees since 2008 in the Treasurer position and has been on the department since 1992 as lieutenant, EMT, Training Officer and firefighter. He is the Vice President of Farm Management and Trust Officer with Havana National Bank. IAFPD Board of Directors welcomes his leadership and added member involvement.